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That on or about the Beginning of the Year One thousand seven hundred and ffifty six being by some Means inform'd that he the said Valerius Duchart was an Alien and as such liable to have his Property Escheated, he therefore imparted to the said Doctor William Lyon his Apprehension on that Account, and requested his ffriendly Assistance therein.

That the said Duchart was by the said William Lyon soon after introduced to one of the Honourable Members of the Lower House of Assembly then Sitting, to consult him in Regard to his Naturalization, but for some Reasons was persuaded by the said Honourable Member to apply to the Provincial Court, which was then shortly to be held; but before the Expiration of that Time it pleased the Almighty that he should perish (with one of his Servants) in the Ruins of a Barn, which in a hard Gale of Wind was Blown down.

That your Petitioner as principal Creditor soon after Viz.^t in the Month of May 1756 procured Letters of Administration on the Estate & Effects of the said Valerius Duchart, and on or about the 21.st of the said Month of May the before mentioned Doctor Lyon being privy to the Deceased's being an Alien from the Confidence, he had before placed in him, Did lodge in the Land Office a Pre-Emption of Escheat for all the Land, the said Duchart dyed possessed of in Baltimore County, and, as your Petitioner is informed by the said Lyon, has since procured a Patent for the same

And your Petitioner further begs leave to represent to Your Excellency and Honours

That by the aforementioned Escheat the Widow and Seven Children of the said Duchart are deprived of the Value of near four hundred Pounds Currency, and left destitute of all manner of Support, Your Petitioner verily and truely believing there will scarce be Assets sufficient to discharge the demands, that are daily made against the Estate of the deceased.

That the Widow and Children aforesaid are the more Deserving of your Pity and Relief in this their Distress, as the deceased by his Integrity and Industry proved during his Life Time a good Neighbour and a Usefull Member to the Community, as by incontestible Evidence can be made to appear

That Relief afforded to this unhappy Family under their present Dilemma will prove a great Encouragement to Strangers to come and reside amongst us

And Finally, that as Doctor William Lyon soon after lodging the Pre-emption aforementioned did frequently, and very publickly declare (by way of Canvassing so ungenerous a Proceeding) that he had made the said Escheat for the Benefit of the Widow and Orphans and to prevent any other Person from Escheating the same to their Detriment